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FOREIGN OFFICE (SECRET) AND
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No. 1337
May 18, 1962

D. 7.50 p.m. May 18, 1962

IMMEDIATE

DEDIP
TOP SECRET

Addressed to Moscow telegram No. 1337 of May 18.
Repeated for information to: Washington, Vientiane, Bangkok, Singapore

My telegram No. 1327 [of May 17: Laos].

We have convincing information from secret sources that Soviet aircraft supplied the build-up for the Nam Tha operation and it is a reasonable deduction that they must have known what was planned. Should you be attacked by Mr. Pushkin or any other senior Soviet personality about the offer to despatch British forces to Thailand on the grounds that this is incompatible with our position as Co-Chairman, you may counter-attack on the following lines:-

> "It is well known to Her Majesty's Government that Soviet aircraft were actively supplying the Forces of the Pathet Lao in the vicinity of Nam Tha in the period before the attack. It therefore appears to us that the Soviet Government must have been privy to the intention of the Pathet Lao to mount this breach of the cease-fire."

The Russians will almost certainly deny this; if asked for your source of information you should refuse to be drawn and merely state that Her Majesty's Government are satisfied that it is the case, and that this seems to us to have been improper action for one of the Co-Chairmen to take.

2. You may now ask to see Pushkin as suggested in paragraph 5 of your telegram No. 867.

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